



CENTER OF EXCELLENCE
IN DISASTER MANAGEMENT
& HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

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**ASIA-PACIFIC DISEASE OUTBREAK
/SURVEILLANCE REPORT**

Week of Aug 29, 2005

BANGLADESH

Dengue Fever Reappears in Dhaka, Bangladesh

Dengue fever has reappeared in Dhaka, the capital city of Bangladesh. Since the beginning of August, a total of 130 people have been diagnosed with the virus. Through a study conducted by the health directorate, a high concentration of the Aedes population of mosquitoes, the species responsible for transmitting the virus, was found in several nearby cities. A month long campaign, initiated by a Dhaka City Corporation high official, is underway to eradicate Aede larvae. Entomologists claim that the peak season for Aedes of June and July has already passed, so the likelihood of an epidemic is low. Nonetheless, there has been an increase in the number of patients admitted to hospitals with the disease.

Source:

• The Daily Star, Aug 30, 2005, <http://bangladesh-web.com/view.php?hidDate=2005-08-30&hidType=NAT&hidRecord=000000000000000058870>

CHINA

U.S. to Aid China's HIV Problem

The Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention and the University of Maryland's Institute of Human Virology are partnering to fight the AIDS virus, as health officials have predicted a tenfold increase in HIV infection in China over the next five years. The organizations plan to collaborate on clinical trials and technical assistance, and develop improved and efficient tests and vaccines. The Chinese Ministry of Health estimates that about 840,000 people in China are infected with the virus. In June, United Nations health officials advised that Asia's AIDS problem could equal Africa and that the number of infected Chinese could grow to 10 million by 2010 if measures are not taken to prevent new infections.

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Source:

· ABC News, Aug 29, 2005, <http://www.abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory?id=1076948>

INDIA**Dengue Fever Spreading Beyond Kolkata, India**

After affecting Kolkata, India, dengue has now spread to several district towns. In Salt Lake, 10 people have been affected. Approximately 300 people are affected and 11 people have died of dengue. The majority of the deceased and infected are from Kolkata. The number of affected people in the districts is 60-65. The breakdown is: Salt Lake 10-24; Parganas (North) 20 to 25; Hooghly and Howrah 10 each; South Parganas 5-6, and Nadia, Burdwan, Birbhum, Murshidabad one each. Officials warn that carriers of the virus can migrate to nearby district towns and the number of affected would increase in the next 2 weeks.

Source:

· Statesman News Service, Aug 30, 2005, <http://www.thestatesman.net/page.news.php?clid=23&theme=&usrsess=1&id=88299>

· Promed Mail, Aug 31, 2005,

http://www.promedmail.org/pls/askus/f?p=2400:1001:5270670612312528829::NO::F2400_P1001_BACK_PAGE,F2400_P1001_PUB_MAIL_ID:1000.30244

Encephalitis Outbreak in Northern India

Over 250 people in Northern India are dead from an encephalitis outbreak. The three week death toll from the mosquito-spread disease has risen to 253, while 300 have been admitted to hospitals in serious condition. The majority of the victims are children. The Indian Health Minister announced that the government is taking measures to vaccinate children and spraying insecticide to eradicate mosquitoes only in the affected regions. Statewide officials say that they do not have enough monetary funds for a statewide immunization program and hopes the disease will die on its own by mid-October. India's monsoon season is from June through September. It is during this time that encephalitis often spreads due to the increase in mosquitoes breeding in stagnant water.

Source:

· CBC News, Aug 29, 2005, http://www.cbc.ca/story/science/national/2005/08/29/india_encephalitis20050829.html

INDONESIA**Indonesia Launches Polio Vaccination Campaign**

Indonesia is starting a \$24 million nationwide campaign to provide vaccinations to 24 million children under the age of 5. The virus re-emerged in March [2005] after 10 years and has affected 225 children in Java and Sumatra. Over 245,000 posts staffed by 750,000 health workers are set up at health clinics, bus depots, rail stations and airports to administer the vaccines. The campaign also includes educating the public that vaccination is safe and does not violate Islamic law. During the last campaign, over one million children were not vaccinated due to rumors that the vaccine caused the death of

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three children. A second polio eradication campaign is scheduled for September 27 [2005] as there is fear the disease will spread to nearby countries. In children under 5, the virus affects the nervous system causing paralysis, muscular atrophy, and can be fatal.

Source:

- CNN News, Aug 30, 2005, <http://www.cnn.com/2005/WORLD/asiapcf/08/29/indon.polio.ap/index.html>
- ABC News, Aug 30, 2005, <http://abcnews.go.com/Health/wireStory?id=1080842>

NEPAL

Encephalitis Death Toll Increases in Western Nepal

Since the outbreak of Japanese Encephalitis in a western district of Nepal three weeks ago, over 116 people have died while being treated in the Kailali and Terai districts, west of Kathmandu. In the past four days, fifteen people died from the disease. Each day, four to five patients are dying and 10 to 12 patients are being admitted for the disease. The majority of the victims are children from poverty. Out of the 236 patients who have been admitted to hospitals for the disease, 84 returned home after treatment and more than 100 are currently receiving care. Local governmental and non-governmental organizations have been providing financial and material support to the hospitals for treatment. The rise in the number of patients has resulted in a shortage of beds in surrounding hospitals.

Source:

- Xinhua News Agency, Aug 29, 2005, <http://none>
- Reliefweb, Aug 29, 2005, <http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/RWB.NSF/db900SID/SODA-6FQ8BG?OpenDocument&rc=3&cc=npl>
- Sify News, Aug 31, 2005, <http://sify.com/news/fullstory.php?id=13929528>

Death Toll from Undiagnosed Disease Reaches Nine in Eastern Nepal

In the eastern district in Nepal, the death toll from an undiagnosed disease has reached nine after the deaths of two more people on 27 August 2005. The victims died within hours of being infected by the disease in the Beltar area of Udayapur district, about 200 km east of Kathmandu. In the past few weeks, the disease has taken the lives of people from the Beltar, Sudarpur and Siddipur villages. Symptoms of this disease include high fever, headache, bleeding from the nose and vomiting blood. Infected patients have been taken to a hospital in Dharan City for treatment. A small medical team has been sent out to the disease affected area.

Source:

- Xinhua News Agency, Aug 28, 2005, <http://none>
- Reliefweb, Aug 28, 2005, <http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/RWB.NSF/db900SID/SODA-6FQ8D5?OpenDocument&rc=3&cc=npl>

PHILIPPINES

Number of Dengue Cases Increasing in Negros Occidental, Philippines

The Negros Occidental Provincial Health Office (PHO) has reported an increase in the number of dengue cases in the province over the past months and requested the

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Regional Health Center for Health Development 6 to deploy an "epidemiological team" to different affected cities and municipalities to further monitor the case. As of 13 August 2005, the number of suspected dengue cases rose to 51%. There have been 829 cases recorded so far in 2005, while there were 548 cases last year [2004]. During 2004, the greatest number of dengue cases in the province was noted in Bago City, which had 144 cases. So far in 2005 it is Talisay City, which has 134 cases. Talisay City recently conducted fogging and larviciding in their area.

Source:

· Sun Star, Aug 27, 2005, http://www.sunstar.com.ph/static/bac/2005/08/27/news/negros_occidental_dengue_cases_reach_829.html
· Promed Mail, Aug 31, 2005, http://www.promedmail.org/pls/askus/f?p=2400:1001:5270670612312528829::NO::F2400_P1001_BACK_PAGE,F2400_P1001_PUB_MAIL_ID:1000,30244

The Philippines Follow Indonesia's Polio Vaccination Campaign

Health officials in the Philippines have announced their plans to vaccinate more than half a million children under the age of 5, as part of a major vaccination campaign. This announcement comes after Indonesia's launch of a massive vaccination campaign. The vaccinations will take place in the southern region of the country, in the provinces of Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao and Zamboanga. The campaign was launched due to the fear that Indonesia's polio outbreak will spread to the Philippines, as Indonesia recently reported 226 cases of polio. Doctors are going door to door to vaccinate as many children as possible. The last major case of polio in the Philippines was in 1993. In October 2000, WHO publicly stated that the Western Pacific region, which includes the Philippines, was polio-free.

Source:

· The Jakarta Press, Aug 31, 2005, <http://www.thejakartapost.com/detailatestnews.asp?fileid=20050831152712&iREC=3>

Other World News

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Outbreak of E. Coli Infections Reported in Hawaii

Four cases of E. coli have been reported in Hawaii, three from the island of Oahu and one from a visitor to Oahu and the Big Island. The onset of the illnesses occurred between 12 and 16 August [2005] and none of the affected people have been hospitalized. State health officials have not identified the cause and have not found any common food exposure. They are treating the four incidents as unrelated cases. The strain of E. Coli has been determined as 0157H7, which is uncommon in Hawaii but dangerous. This particular bacteria generates toxins which can cause bloody diarrhea and abdominal cramps, and generally passes in five days. Contraction can be through water exposure and from petting zoos or other exposure to livestock.

Source:

· Honolulu Star-Bulletin, Aug 30, 2005, <http://none>
· Promed Mail, Aug 30, 2005,

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http://www.promedmail.org/pls/askus/f?p=2400:1001:3848403903717683472::NO::F2400_P1001_BACK_PAGE,F2400_P1001_PUB_MAIL_ID:1000.30239
· KHON 2 News, Aug 30, 2005, <http://khon.com/khon/displayStory.cfm?storyID=6823>

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